

Application No.: 09/943,533
Amendment dated: August 19, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 5, 2003

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

- 1 12. (Currently amended) A wrap comprising, an elastomeric band having a uniform width
2 substantially greater than its thickness, a retainer having a body defining a notch for
3 receiving widthwise a portion of said elastomeric band, a band receiving portion of
4 said notch, a first tab extending axially of said retainer over said band receiving
5 portion of said notch and defining a mouth portion of said notch, wherein said mouth
6 portion has a width less than the width of said elastomeric band.

- 1 13. (Original) A wrap of claim 12, wherein said body has a second tab extending axially
2 toward but spaced from said first tab to define said mouth portion.

- 1 14. (Original) The wrap of claim 12 further comprising, a second notch located
2 substantially diametrically opposite said first notch.

- 1 15. (Previously amended) The wrap of claim 14, wherein said first and second notches are
2 symmetrical about an axis of said body of said retainer.

- 1 16. (Original) The wrap of claim 12 further comprising, a second tab extending from said
2 body portion opposite said first tab, wherein said mouth portion is defined between
3 said first and second tabs.

- 1 17. (Original) The wrap of claim 16, wherein said first and second tabs extend
2 equidistantly from said body portion to define a substantially T-shaped notch.

- 1 18. (Original) The wrap of claim 16, further comprising a second notch having a mouth
2 defined by at least one tab that is less than said width of a side of said elastomeric
3 band, whereby one portion of said elastomeric band is received within said first notch

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4 and another portion of said elastomeric band is received in said second notch and
5 radially retained by the respective tabs.

1 19. (Original) The wrap of claim 18, wherein said second notch includes a pair of spaced
2 tabs extending from said body portion to define said opening.

1 20. (Original) The wrap of claim 18, wherein said notches are symmetrical about an
2 axially extending centerline of said retainer.

1 21. (Currently amended) A wrap comprising a continuous elastomeric band having a
2 substantially uniform width and having a substantial width to thickness ratio, a retainer
3 having an elongate body including a notch for receiving widthwise a portion of said
4 elastomeric band, a band receiving portion of said notch extending transversely of said
5 elongate body, a first tab extending axially over said band receiving portion of said
6 notch and defining a mouth portion of said notch, said mouth portion having a width
7 less than the width of said elastomeric band.

1 22. (Original) A wrap of claim 21, wherein said body has a second tab extending axially
2 toward but spaced from said first tab to define said mouth portion.

1 23. (Original) The wrap of claim 21 further comprising, a second notch located
2 substantially diametrically opposite said first notch.

1 24. (Original) The wrap of claim 23, wherein said first and second notches are
2 symmetrical about an axis of said body of said retainer.

1 25. (Original) The wrap of claim 21 further comprising, a second tab extending from said
2 body portion opposite said first tab, wherein said mouth portion is defined between
3 said first and second tabs.

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- 1 26. (Original) The wrap of claim 25, wherein said first and second tabs extend
- 2 equidistantly from said body portion to define a substantially T-shaped notch.

- 1 27. (Original) The wrap of claim 25, further comprising a second notch having a mouth
- 2 defined by at least one tab that is less than the width of said elastomeric band, whereby
- 3 one portion of said elastomeric band is received within said first notch and another
- 4 portion of said elastomeric band is received in said second notch and radially retained
- 5 by the respective tabs.

- 1 28. (Original) The wrap of claim 21, wherein said retainer is substantially cylindrical.

- 1 29. (Original) The wrap of claim 21, wherein said notch is located substantially medially
- 2 of said elongate body.

- 1 30. (Currently amended) A wrap comprising, an elastomeric band of uniform width
- 2 adapted to be folded over to form a first end loop and a second end loop, an elongate
- 3 retainer having a body defining a notch for receiving widthwise said first end loop of
- 4 said elastomeric band, a slot in said retainer located inward thereof, and a mouth
- 5 portion communicating with said slot and opening externally of the retainer, said
- 6 mouth portion having a width less than the width of the elastomeric band, wherein said
- 7 first end loop with said retainer is receivable in said second end loop and held by said
- 8 retainer to prevent separation of said first end loop and said second end loop.